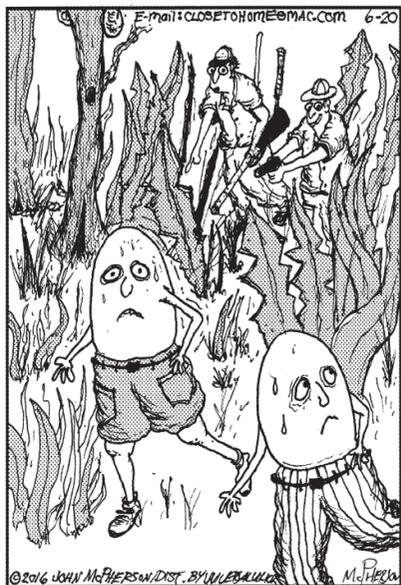


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Where poached eggs come from.

Baby sitter resents being volunteered

Dear Abby: I live with my parents and am not fond of children. My father volunteers me to baby-sit my nieces while they are right in front of us and before I have a chance to discuss anything.

If I stand up for myself and say no, my father lays a guilt trip on me and tells the kids that their aunt is "being mean."

I'm grateful that my parents took me in after I graduated from university, which has allowed me to work on a second degree.

However, when I am volunteered to do something I don't enjoy — like entertain the kids — my father somehow always manages to leave the house.

He often lectures me about things I should do or things others should do, but he never does any of them himself. His excuse is that he works to support us financially.

Am I being ungrateful and should I grin and bear it?

Or should I do an intervention with



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dad when the kids aren't over? — *Overtired Aunt*

Dear Overtired: Assuming that you have told your father your feelings, he may feel that because he supports you, he has the right to volunteer your services.

What might work would be to tell your sibling how you feel about being trapped into doing it — and about kids in general. I know I wouldn't want any children of mine to be around someone who resents having to care for them. Perhaps your sibling will feel the same.

Dear Abby: I have had cancer for 12 years. This will be my last year. The chemo treatment was getting stronger and making me sick longer. I told most of my siblings that I decided on no more chemo. The doctor warned my daughter eight months ago that there will be no stopping the progression of my disease.

My daughter has a lot on her plate right now, finding and buying a house, getting a new job and planning her wedding for next year. I have tried to help her plan for my death, but it only upsets her.

I feel great and better each day since I have been off the chemo. I have a positive attitude about the short future that's ahead of me.

So how do I tell my daughter this is my last year? — *Living and Loving Life in New England*

Dear Living and Loving: I'm sorry about your prognosis. Few people welcome the idea of their parents' passing, but it is a subject that needs to be discussed.

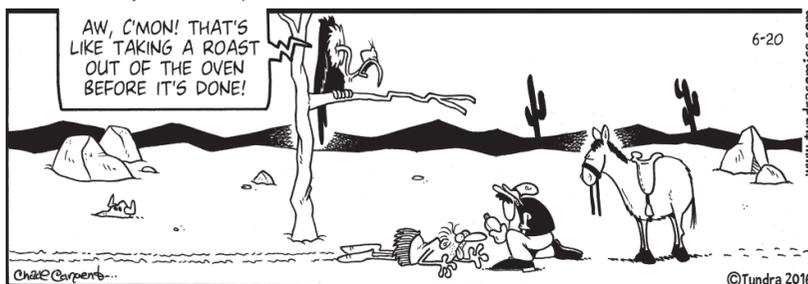
A way to get the message across to your daughter would be to call a family meeting so that she will have emotional support when she hears about your decision.

Announce that you are feeling better than you have in a long time because you are no longer having chemo, and make clear what your wishes are in the event of your death.

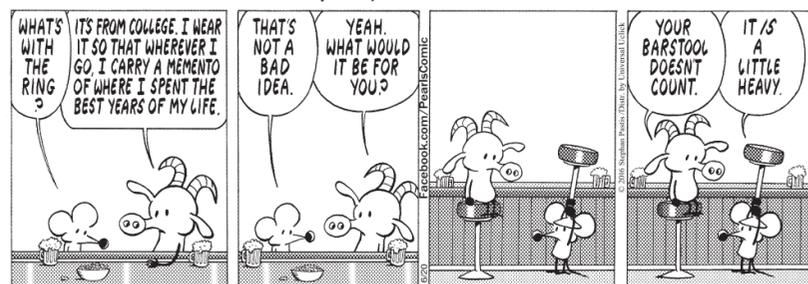
Right now your daughter is understandably focused on herself. Do not expect that she will take the news well, and be sure to have your plans in writing so there will be no confusion among family members later.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



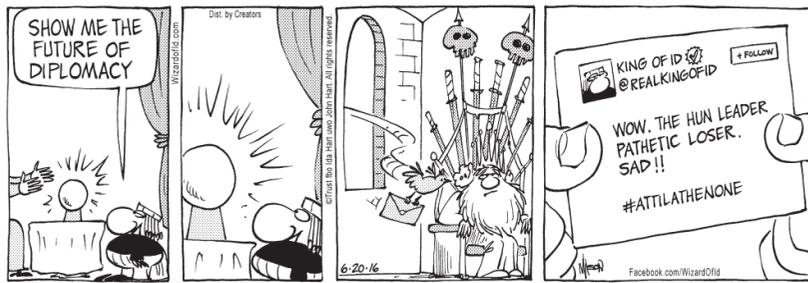
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



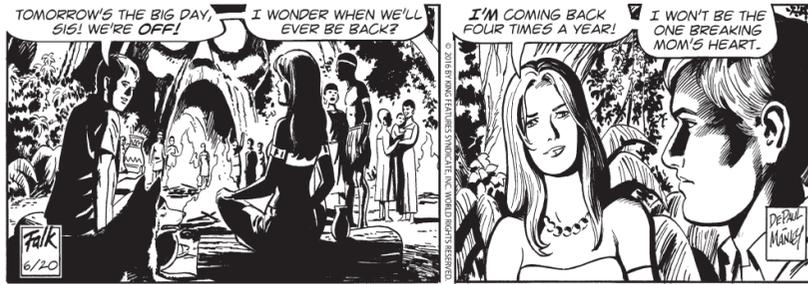
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



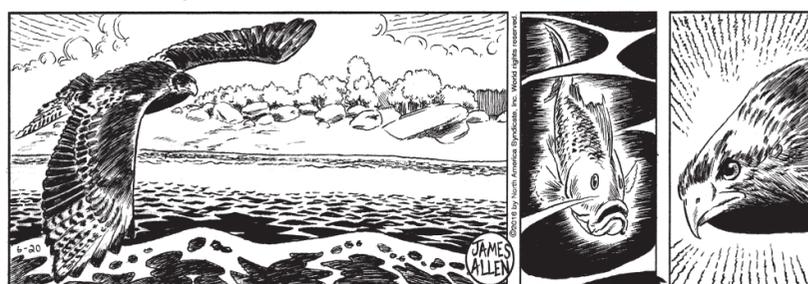
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



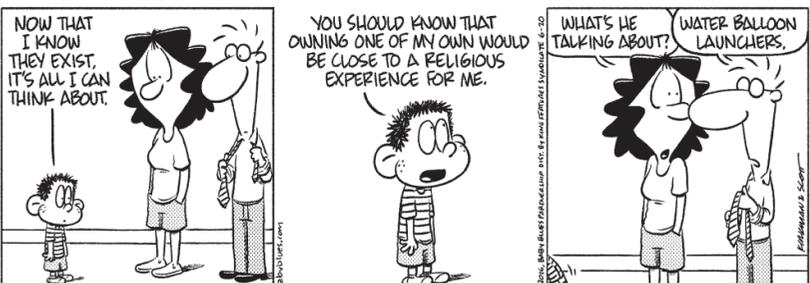
PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The frame of mind you're in when you wake up isn't how you'll stay all day. This day of many moods has much to teach. Remember that each state of mind is a temporary one and move lightly through.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you let resentment go, it won't be because you're doing the other person a favor. Grudges are baggage, and baggage that's too heavy to harbor. Drop it, be light, laugh.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The afternoon will bring a small miracle that seems dropped from the heavens. This was actually a miracle of your own making though, created with stacks and stacks of good karma.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Feeling content is one of life's greatest riches. There's nothing fancy about getting to that state today. Contentment will naturally occur after a good night's sleep and a hard day's work followed by a satisfying meal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The one who says it better is getting into the minutia, the details and deeper definitions. You'll be inclined toward verbal acumen today, willing to re-examine the words you use. Do they mean what you think they mean?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A sensitive, vulnerable mood will pass quickly if you're willing to process the fear at the bottom of it. Don't turn away. You can handle whatever discomfort

comes up. Talk or write about the feelings you experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Intuition awakens in the thick of intense drama. It also awakens in the serenity of a mental void that comes from doing very little other than deep breathing. If no intuition comes, no action is necessary. Only move when compelled.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The stardust in your being is the same dust that lights up in your idols when they perform, seemingly just for you. When you celebrate others, you celebrate you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The one who loves you will pay attention to where you go, whether you travel directly and with purpose or wander aimlessly and perilously. Sometimes you're the shepherd; sometimes you're the sheep.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have habits you realize and habits you don't. Mostly the latter is true, as it's the nature of automatic behavior not to think about it once established. Once again, it's reason to get an objective view.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The thought is not always accurate, helpful ... or even yours. Today, there's something to be said for acting unthinkingly, heeding the basic instincts of your body and impulses of the moment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When the heroes in stories overcome sorrows and trials, it's an entertaining escape. It's not as fun when you're the one facing adversity, and yet, make no mistake, it's forming a hero in you.



HOLIDAY MATHS